

THE BRAINS BEHIND SAVING YOURS.®

Minnesota-North Dakota Chapter
7900 West 78th Street, Suite 100
Minneapolis, MN 55439

April 23, 2018

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Alisha Simon
Health Economics Program
Minnesota Department of Health
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REGIONAL OFFICES

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Dear Ms. Simon,

I am writing in full support of Regions Hospital's proposal to add 100 additional inpatient beds. Regions is a vital part of the health care infrastructure of our state and a particularly important resource for people and families dealing with Alzheimer's and other dementia related diseases. We need Regions to be able to grow with the needs of our aging population.

Alzheimer's disease diagnoses and deaths have increased over the past 20 years — and those numbers are expected to skyrocket over the next 30 years. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently released a study showing death rates from Alzheimer's increased 55% from 1999 to 2014. About 5.5 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's and that's expected to reach 16 million by 2050. Older people with Alzheimer's have twice as many hospital stays per year as other older Americans. They also have four times longer hospital stays and nearly three times more emergency department visits. More than 85% of people with Alzheimer's have one or more other chronic conditions or co-morbidities that further complicate their care.

As the level 1 trauma center for the east metro we know Regions is equipped to care for patients with Alzheimer's at the same time as other complex and debilitating conditions. Healthgrades, a leading online resource for comprehensive information about physicians and hospitals, ranks Regions among the top hospitals in the nation for neuroscience care in 2018. Regions is also affiliated with the new HealthPartners Neuroscience Center, that brings nationally recognized programs in neurological care, rehabilitation, and cutting edge research all under one roof.

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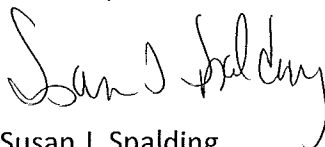
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Regions Hospital is a crucial resource for individuals, caregivers, and families impacted by Alzheimer's and other dementias. We need it to grow with the growing needs of our community and we hope you will find their proposal for 100 additional inpatient beds in the public interest.

Sincerely,



Susan J. Spalding

Region Leader, Alzheimer's Association

CEO, Alzheimer's Association Minnesota-North Dakota